

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 06583 101937Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20 TRSE-00 XMB-04
OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /089 W
-----073242 110243Z /21

R 101750Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1576
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMCONSUL TRIESTE
AMCONSUL TURIN

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USEC
USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SW, EEC, IT
SUBJECT: EUROPEAN "WORKER ACTION DAY" FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT

REF: ATHENS 2435; BRUSSELS 6546; MADRID 3689; STOCKHOLM 1378

1. AS IN GREECE AND SPAIN, A NATIONWIDE STRIKE WAS ACTUALLY CALLED IN ITALY APRIL 5 IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE ETUC ACTION, BUT IT PASSED ALMOST UNNOTICED AMIDST THE CONCERN ABOUT THE MORO KIDNAPPING AND OTHER ITALIAN ISSUES. THOSE WORKERS WHO DID ACTUALLY STRIKE AND SHOW UP AT THE SMALL RALLIES IN ROME, MILAN AND ELSEWHERE, DID SO MORE IN RESPONSE TO PENDING LOCAL AND CATEGORY ISSUES, STRIKES AND SPEECHES ABOUT WHICH WERE TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE EUROPE-WIDE ACTION. EMPLOYMENT IS LABOR'S NUMBER ONE ISSUE IN ITALY AND MANY MAJOR STRIKES AND DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BEEN HELD ON THIS THEME. ON APRIL 5, THE UNIONS WENT THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF REITERATING THEIR CONCERN AND REPEATING CALLS FOR GOI ACTION, BUT WITHOUT ANY NOTICEABLE IMPACT. THE TIMING WAS INAPPROPRIATE, WITH GOVERNMENT AND NATIONA PREOCCUPIED WITH THE MORO KIDNAPPING.

2. THE CGIL-CISL-UIL FEDERATION CALLED A FOUR-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE IN ROME, 3-HOUR IN MILAN AND AN ALL-DAY REGIONAL STRIKE IN SARDEGNA, PLUS SHORTER STRIKES IN A FEW OTHER TOWNS, BUT EXEMPTED ALL ESSENTIAL SERVICES INCLUDING TRANSPORT. THE METAL, CHEMICAL, FOOD, TEXTILE AND CONSTRUCTION UNIONS CALLED NATIONAL STRIKES, GENERALLY TWO HOURS. PARTICIPATION IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN VERY LIGHT. ATTENDANCE AT ROME AND MILAN RALLIES WAS CLAIMED TO HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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BEEN 40,000 AND 30,000 RESPECTIVELY; ATTENDANCE IN THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS IS USUALLY CLAIMED FOR SUCH RALLIES.

3. IN SUMMARY, ALTHOUGH THE ITALIAN UNIONS ACTUALLY DID CALL STRIKES INSTEAD OF PARTICIPATING ONLY SYMBOLICALLY, THEIR PARTICIPATION TURNED OUT TO BE SYMBOLICAL IN ACTUAL FACT. GARDNER

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